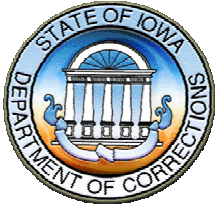
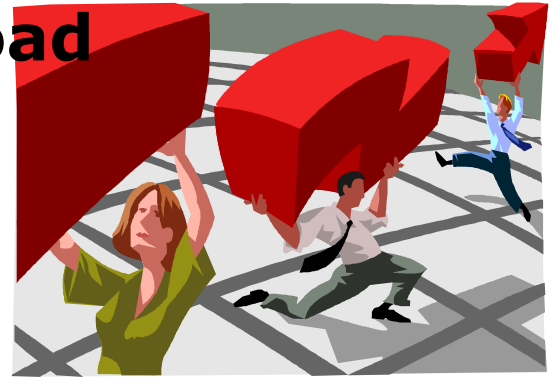


Lettie Prell
Director of Research

Curt Smith
Executive Assistant to the Director



Data Download



Evaluation Gives STAR High Marks

The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) recently released an evaluation of the intensive substance abuse treatment program at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW) – STAR (Sisters Together Achieving Recovery). STAR is a licensed inpatient program utilizing a gender-based therapeutic community model (TC).

The evaluation consisted of three groups: STAR 1 (those exiting the program between October 1, 2004 and June 30, 2006); STAR 2 (those exiting the program between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2008); and a control group exiting ICIW between October 1, 2004 and June 30, 2008 with identified but untreated substance abuse needs. The reason for dividing the STAR participants into two separate groups was due to several changes to the program, mainly staffing levels, during the test period. CJJP tracked the group members an average of 2.4 years after their release from ICIW.

The evaluation revealed that both STAR groups obtained higher median wages than the control group for all years tracked. This disparity in wages increased over time, and by the third year the STAR groups earned a median wage nearly double that of the control group.

The data also showed 15% of the STAR groups having at least one positive drug test within the first year of release, compared to 27% of those tested in the control group. The most frequently occurring drug detected for all groups was amphetamines (including methamphetamines) followed by marijuana.

Finally, recidivism rates were markedly lower on both measures of recidivism studied (new convictions or returns to prison) for the STAR groups compared to the control group: 79.9% of the STAR groups had no new conviction compared to 67.1% of the control group; and 84.1% of the STAR groups remained out of prison compared to 67.1% of the control group.

Bottom line: The STAR program participants earned higher wages; were more drug-free and crime-free; and more likely to stay out of prison compared to offenders in the control group.

The full report can be found at <http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/cjpp/publications/fy11.htm>